

Message Text

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FOLLOWING IS ARTICLE FROM DEC 12, 1977 ISSUE OF AVIATION
WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY MAGAZINE:

BEGIN TEXT: BRUSSELS-EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION ARE SEEKING WAYS TO PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL AND TURKEY, INCLUDING POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF COMBAT AIRCRAFT MADE SURPLUS BY THE GENERAL DYNAMICS F-16 AND PANAVIA TORNADO MULTI-ROLE COMBAT AIRCRAFT PROGRAMS.

WEST GERMAN AIR FORCE ALREADY HAS TRANSFERRED A SMALL NUMBER OF LOCKHEED F-104 FIGHTERS TO TURKEY, AND PORTUGAL
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WILL RECEIVE SOME FIAT G.91 STRIKE FIGHTERS FROM THE WEST GERMANS. PORTUGAL ALSO IS PURCHASING SOME LOCKHEED C-130 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT.

AN AIR-MOBILE ARMORED BRIGADE FROM PORTUGAL IS BEING EQUIPPED BY OTHER NATO MEMBERS TO BECOME A PART OF THE

ALLIED COMMAND EUROPE (ACE) MOBILE FORCE. EQUIPMENT ALLOTTED TO THIS FORCE SO FAR INCLUDES TANKS, ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, ARTILLERY, TRUCKS AND SMALL ARMS, ACCORDING TO W.F. MUMFORD, NATO DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL FOR DEFENSE PLANS AND POLICY. MUMFORD ALSO CHAIRS A NATO COMMITTEE THAT IS IN THE PROCESS OF DETERMINING WHAT EQUIPMENT IS NEEDED BY TURKEY FOR THAT COUNTRY TO CONTINUE TO MEET ITS NATO OBLIGATIONS.

AMONG THE POSSIBILITIES BEING CONSIDERED FOR BOTH TURKEY AND PORTUGAL IS TRANSFER OF SOME OF THE FIGHTER AIRCRAFT THAT ARE SCHEDULED TO BE REPLACED BY THE F-16 AND THE TORNADO. MUMFORD SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED LARGE NUMBERS OF LOCKHEED F-104G AIRCRAFT THAT WILL BE PHASED OUT OF THE WEST GERMAN AND DUTCH AIR FORCES.

HOWEVER, HE ALSO SAID THAT IN THE CASE OF TURKEY, 95 PER CENT OF THE EXISTING MILITARY HARDWARE IN SERVICE WITH THE COUNTRY'S ARMED FORCES IS OF U.S. MANUFACTURE, WHICH MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO INTRODUCE EQUIPMENT FROM OTHER NATIONS BECAUSE OF THE LOGISTICS AND SUPPLY PROBLEMS THIS CREATES.

NATO SECRETARY GENERAL JOSEPH LUNS SAID THAT IT WAS IN NATO'S IMMEDIATE INTEREST TO BREAK THROUGH THE "LEGAL IMPEDIMENTS TO AID."

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TURKEY IS, HOWEVER, CONTINUING TO MEET ITS NATO OBLIGATIONS FOR THE PRESENT IN SPITE OF THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO, MUMFORD SAID. END TEXT. VANCE

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